

ESTONIAN PHILHARMONIC CHAMBER CHOIR

The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (EPCC) has developed into the best-known Estonian music group in the world. The EPCC was founded by Tõnu Kaljuste in 1981, who continued as the Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the group for two decades. Paul Hillier was Chief Conductor from 2001 to 2007, Daniel Reuss from 2008 to 2013 and Kaspars Putniņš from 2014-2021. Since 2021/22 Tõnu Kaljuste is again Artistic Director and Chief Conductor.

The choir toured with A cappella programmes at BBC Proms, Musikfest Bremen, Dresdner Musikfestspiele, Prague Spring Festival, Shanghai International Arts Festival, in Paris, München, Berlin, at the opera festival in Aix-en-Provence with the BR Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle in the new production of *Don Giovanni*. The EPCC performed with Concerto Copenhagen in Antwerp, Kloster Knechtsteden and Halle (Saale) and gave concerts with the Symfoniorkest Vlaanderen in France, Belgium and the Netherlands (Paris, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Bruges, Ghent among others). A cooperation with the Helsinki Chamber Choir took place in Tallinn, Viljandi and Helsinki.

On the occasion of Arvo Pärt's 90th birthday, the choir performed Pärt portraits at Enescu Festival Bucarest, in Copenhagen, London, Glasgow, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and Carnegie Hall New York.

During the 2026/27 season, the EPCC will be appearing at the Barbican Centre London, in Cambridge, Dublin, Cork, Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, The Hague, Utrecht, Nijmegen, Tilburg and Heerlen.

The choir's large repertoire extends from Gregorian chant to late baroque and the music of the 20th century, opera and an ever special focus on the work of Estonian composers as Arvo Pärt, Veljo Tormis, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Galina Grigorjeva, Toivo Tulev, Tõnu Kõrvits and Helena Tulve. Each season the choir gives about 60 to 70 concerts in Estonia and abroad.

The EPCC has performed in major concert venues around the globe as Vienna Konzerthaus, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Versailles Opéra Royale, Palau Musica in Barcelona, LSO St. Luke London, Esplanade Signapore, Kennedy Centre Washington, Lincoln Centre and Carnegie Hall New York and Opera House Sydney. Furthermore the choir appeared at numerous festivals including Aix-en-Provence, Salzburg Festival, BBC Proms, Cervantino Festival Mexiko, Edinburgh, Rheingau, Schleswig-Holstein, Stuttgart, Schwetzingen, Mosel, Klangvokal Dortmund, Mozartwoche Salzburg, Osterfestival Tirol Austria, Flanders, Bergen, Oslo, Istanbul, Cheltenham, Tampere, Folle Journées: Nantes and Lissabon, Vale of Glamorgan, Hong Kong, Abu Gosh World Expo Cultural Center Shanghai, Wratislavia Cantans and the Nargen Festival Estonia.

Notable cooperations include appearances with Paavo Järvi, Neeme Järvi, Olari Elts, Risto Joost, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Peter Phillips, Gustavo Dudamel, Iván Fischer, Marc Minkowski, Sir Simon Rattle, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Andrew Lawrence-King, Paul McCreesh as well as the London Symphony Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Salzburg, Les Musiciens du Louvre, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra Mozart Bologna, Stuttgarter Philharmonie, hr-Sinfonieorchester Frankfurt, Norwegian, Australian, Lithuanian, Prague, Basel and Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, Concerto Copenhagen, Concerto Palatino, Estonian National Symphony Orchestra and Tallinn Chamber Orchestra.

Their considerable discography includes numerous recordings with Tõnu Kaljuste for ECM Records, Ondine Records, Virgin Classics, Carus, harmonia mundi which received highest plaudits including two Grammy Awards and 14 Grammy nominations.

The latest recordings for ECM are the albums *Reminiscentiae* with music by Veljo Tormis as well as Arvo Pärt: *Tractus*.

Berlin Classics released the Pärt album *Lente* with Concerto Copenhagen in March 2025.

BIS Records has released four albums under Kaspars Putniņš including Alfred Schnittke: *Concerto for choir*, Arvo Pärt: *Seven Magnificat Antiphons*, Franz Liszt: *Via Crucis*, Ülo Krigul: *Liquid Turnes* and Arvo Pärt: *Sacred choral works* as well as an album with Schnittke: *Psalms of Repentance* and Pärt: *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis* which was awarded the Gramophone Award and Diapason d'Or in 2018.

Ondine has featured three albums by Tõnu Kõrvits with Risto Joost and Tallinn Chamber Orchestra: *The Sound of Wings, You are Light and Morning (Sei la luce e il mattino)* and *Moorland Elegies*.

In 2020 BBC Music Magazine has named EPCC as one of the 10 best choirs in the world.

Season 2026/27